



# **COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**

## *Department of Emergency Management*

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### **Disaster Field Office**

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**VIRGINIA-1525-DR-VA**

Commonwealth Situation Report #1

Saturday, June 19, 2004

#### **1. Situation**

A system of severe storms began moving through Southwest Virginia on May 24, 2004. Flash flooding occurred on May 24-25 in Tazewell and Russell counties. Tornadoes damaged homes in Lee County on May 28. Flash floods impacted Buchanan County and several other counties in Southwest Virginia over the June 12-15 period.

Governor Warner declared a State of Emergency for Tazewell and Russell counties on May 25 and expanded the declaration to include Lee County on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

On June 2, 2004, Governor Mark R. Warner requested that President Bush issue a major disaster declaration for Lee, Russell and Tazewell counties. He requested federal aid through the Individual Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs. President Bush granted a Federal Disaster Declaration for Lee, Russell and Tazewell counties on June 15, 2004.

On June 19, the state requested a joint local/state/federal Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) in Buchanan. The PDA is underway.

#### **2. Weather for Russell County and Tazewell County**

Today, mostly cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms. Upper 70's to 80's, North winds 5-10 mph. Tonight, same. Sunday, mostly sunny, highs in upper 70's to lower 80's, light winds.

#### **3. Current State/Federal Priorities and Objectives**

- ☐ Notify affected communities of the availability of federal disaster assistance.
- ☐ Open Disaster Recovery Center(s) as needed.
- ☐ Conduct Preliminary Damage Assessment for Buchanan County.
- ☐ Ensure priority handling of individual disaster victims and address potential housing issues.
- ☐ Complete Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- ☐ Manage public expectations through targeted media releases and appropriate contacts with public officials.
- ☐ Joint FCO/SCO determination of Incident Period closure date.

#### **4. Recovery Activities**

##### **A. Human Services**

##### **i. Teleregistrations**

- ☐ 321 registrations from declared and undeclared jurisdictions. Expect approximately 1000 total registrations.
- ☐ Individuals can register immediately for FEMA assistance by calling (800) 621-FEMA or TTY (800) 462-7585 for the hearing and speech impaired.

“Working to Protect People, Property and Our Communities”

ii. **Small Business Administration** No report at this time

iii. **Disaster Recovery Center**

- ☐ The Commonwealth and FEMA have approved the location of a Disaster Recovery Center to serve all three declared counties. It will be located in the town of Richlands, Department of Police Building, 1851 Cranwell Dr., Richlands, VA 24641. Opening date is June 21, 2004. Initially open seven days a week until further notice.

iv. **Individuals and Households Program (IHP)**

(a) **Housing Program**

- ☐ No report at this time.

(b) **Other Needs Assistance (ONA)**

- ☐ No report at this time.

v. **Volunteer Organizations**

- ☐ The Clinch Valley Community Action and Good Samaritan Food Pantry opened a Recovery Center on June 7, 2004, in Richlands with assistance from the Tazewell County Recovery Task Force. The Center provided cleanup supplies, household items, food and information on flood recovery for residents of Tazewell and Russell Counties. Contributions of drinking water, food, and soft drinks have been received from the United Way of the Virginians and Virginia Surplus in Wytheville. The employees of UPS donated 50 clean-up kits.
- ☐ Several voluntary agencies provided immediate relief for families impacted by flash flooding.
- ☐ The local recovery task forces in Russell and Tazewell counties are assisting as requested and will have representatives in the DRC to meet with individuals.

vi. **Donations Management**

- ☐ Tazewell and Russell counties are coordinating distribution of donated goods.

vii. **Disaster Unemployment Assistance**

- ☐ Effective June 18, 2004, assistance is available for residents of the declared jurisdictions. Residents can call or visit the nearest Virginia Employment Office.

viii. **Mental Health**

- ☐ The Cumberland Plateau Community Service Board will provide mental health assistance for residents of Tazewell and Russell Counties. A representative will be in the DRC in Richlands.

**B. Community Relations (CR)**

- ☐ State and FEMA CR Coordinators met with local officials in Russell County June 18
- ☐ State/federal CR teams are active in all three declared counties distributing Tele-Registration flyers.

**C. Mitigation**

- ☐ Begin coordination of a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program with FEMA June 22.
- ☐ State staff will arrive after business hours June 21.

**D. Legislative Liaison**

- ☐ Appropriate Senators and Delegates were notified of the Presidential declaration on June 17.

**E. Hazardous Materials**

- ☐ Regional Hazardous Material Officer is continuing to monitor situations in the area.

**F. Public Affairs**

- ❑ Completed introductions to news media in Bluefield and Richlands June 18.
- ❑ Expect to issue Press Releases today about DRC opening and that inspectors will be in the field.

**G. Disaster Recovery Task Forces**

- ❑ The Local Disaster Recovery Task Force in Russell County met June 1 and June 3, 2004 to assist citizens of Russell County. A press release was published in the local newspapers. A follow-up meeting was held on June 15 to discuss pending cases of requests for assistance.
- ❑ The task forces for Russell and Tazewell counties will have representatives in the DRC in Richlands starting Monday June 21.

**H. Miscellaneous Actions:**

- ❑ VDOT is continuing to work on clearing roadways and repairing damaged roadways and bridges.
- ❑ VDH (Health) and DEQ (Environmental Quality) in Russell and Tazewell Counties continue assisting with evaluating drinking water safety.
- ❑ VDOF (Forestry) on scene assisting with debris removal.
- ❑ DMME (Mines and Mineral Energy) on scene conducting inspections of mine sites.
- ❑ Tetanus vaccinations will be available from the local health departments.

**I. State Coordinating Officer**

- ❑ Deputy SCO requested DFO prepare state situation reports (sitreps) Monday through Saturday from June 19 through 25. Frequency of sitreps after June 25 will be determined later this week.
- ❑ DFO will be open June 19 (8 a.m. – 6 p.m.), June 20 (8 a.m. – 1 p.m.), M-F (8 a.m. – 6 p.m.). DFO will be closed all subsequent Sundays.

Signed, Mary Camp Dep SCO, June 19, 2004

**Authority of Michael M. Cline, State Coordinator**  
/s/ Mary Camp, Deputy State Coordinating Officer